



February 21, 2019

Dear Representative Bahner,

We would like to extend our support for HF1226, which will fund grants for home visiting across the state. The Minnesota Visiting Nurses Association (MVNA), an arm of Hennepin Healthcare, provides evidence-based home visiting programs to pregnant and parenting individuals in Minneapolis and Greater Hennepin County. HF1226 would allow MVNA to further expand and supplement current home visiting programs.

Currently, MVNA provides two evidence-based programs to families, Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) and Healthy Families America (HFA). MVNA has been providing these programs since 2010. In 2018, MVNA received 977 antepartum referrals to these programs. Of these 977 referrals, 515 of these qualified for NFP and 53 qualified for HFA. Across all programs in 2018, MVNA staff completed 21,435 visits with 14,754 of those visits occurring in the city of Minneapolis and 6,681 in suburban Hennepin County.

We generously extend our commitment to this bill, and plan to continue to advocate for increased grant funding for evidence-based programs. All of our in home visits are conducted by a Public Health Nurse providing prenatal, postpartum and parenting education in the home.

We will continue to work with other key stakeholders within the community to promote healthy pregnancies and early childhood development as well as decrease health disparities in Minneapolis and Greater Hennepin County. Thank you for authoring this bill and supporting these incredibly important programs.

Sincerely,

Anna Mueller, RN, PHN, MA
Clinical Director of Family Health
Hennepin Healthcare-MVNA